

REMARKS

The Applicant's remarks below are preceded by quotations of the related comments of the examiner in small, boldface type.

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the method claims are not selected in this application. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Although Applicant disagrees, the amendments required by the examiner have been made.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

3. Claims 30-32 and 35-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vinciarelli et al. (U.S. Patent 5,526,234).

Regarding claim 30, Vinciarelli discloses an apparatus as shown in figures 2 and 10 comprising:

an electronic device (packaging 11, column 3, line 58) having a surface (the surfaces of fences 29 of a PCB 17 within the electronic device 11) and a conductive termination (25a-25h, column 4, lines 18-30) on the surface;

a protective, conformal coating (50, column 6, lines 20-36), on the surface of the electronic device (11); and

a window (27f, column 5, lines 13-14) formed in the protective coating (50) to expose a portion of the conductive terminations (25a-25b, see figure 2 and 4A);

wherein the portion of the conductive termination is recessed in the conformal coating (figures 2 and 4A show the coating 50 having recesses so that the terminal pins extend through hold 27f of the device 11).

As to claim 31,

As to claim 32,

As to claims 35-37,

As to claim 38,

As to claim 39, ...

Response to Arguments

6. Applicants' argument filed 02/21/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

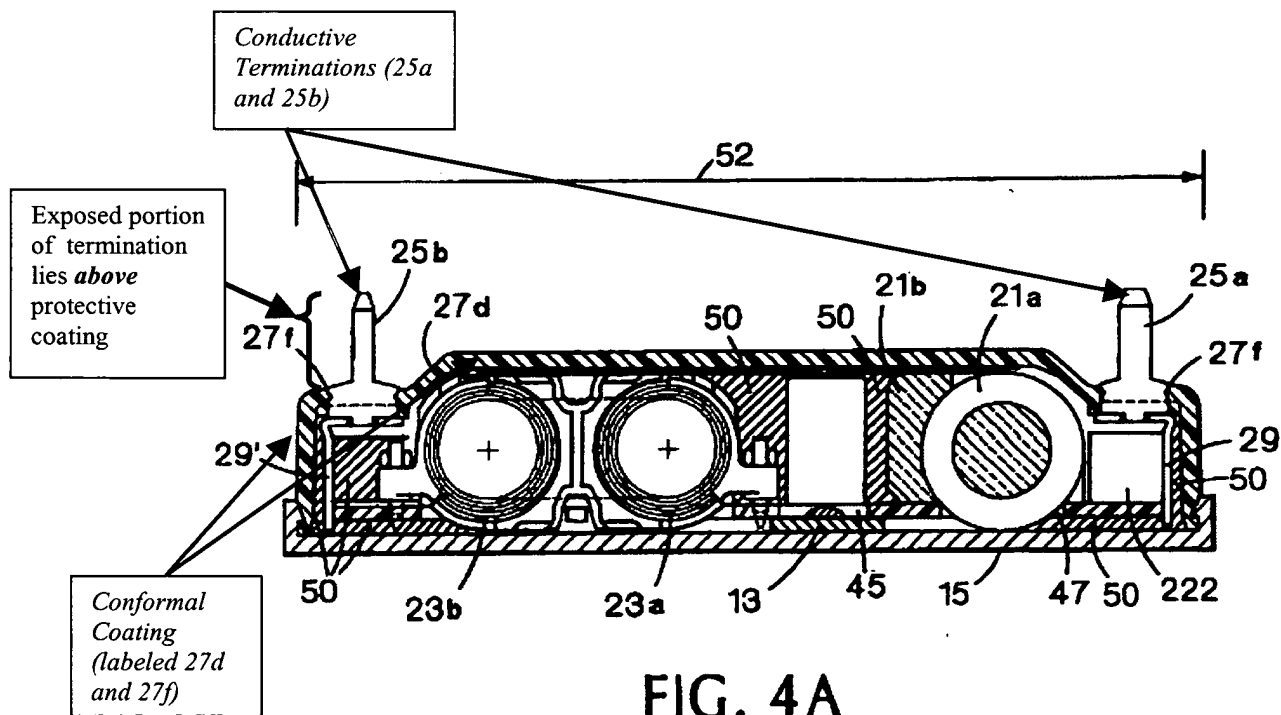
Applicant argues:

Vinciarelli does not disclose "the portion of the conductive termination is recessed in the conformal coating."

Examiner disagrees.

Vinciarelli clearly shows in figures 2 and 4A that a portion of a conductive termination (25) recessed in conformal coating (50), the recessed portion of the coating is within a broken lines, see figure 4A for the conductive terminal extending through the device (11).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Amended claim 30 requires that the exposed portion of the conductive termination is recessed in the window of the conformal coating. Vinciarelli plainly lacks this feature because the exposed portion of the conductive termination of the device described in this patent protrudes above the conformal coating as clearly shown in FIG. 4A reproduced below (we have added the callouts):



The examiner identifies encapsulant 50 of the Vinciarelli patent as the conformal coating of the present claims. However, encapsulant 50 is a soft material that provides a buffer between components within the device 11 (see col 6, lns 20-23 of Vinciarelli). As shown in FIG. 4A above, encapsulant 50 is not a protective, conformal coating located on an outer surface of device 11. Rather, the "case" labeled as 27f and 27d in FIG. 4A is the element that provides a protective coating on the outer surface of device 11 and has a window through which the conductive terminals 25a-25b protrude. Even if one were to equate this "case" with the conformal coating of the present claims, however, it is clear that the exposed surfaces of the terminals of Vinciarelli protrude above the "case" and thus do not meet the limitation of claim 30 requiring that the exposed portion of the conductive termination is recessed in the conformal coating.

Claim 30 is patentable for at least these reasons. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons.

The Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Additionally, the Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the references identified in the July 6, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement and return of the initialed Form-1449 to the undersigned attorney.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 00614-092002.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/14/03



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